



Environmental effects on public health: An economic perspective

Author(s): Remoundou K, Koundouri P
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Abstract:

In this article we critically review the economic literature on the effects of environmental changes on public health, in both the developed and the developing world. We first focus on the economic methodologies that are available for the evaluation of the effects (social costs and benefits) of environmental changes (degradation/preservation) on public health. Then, we explain how the monetary valuations of these effects can feed back in the construction of economic policy for creating agent-specific incentives for more efficient public health management, which is also equitable and environmentally sustainable. Our exposition is accompanied by a synthesis of the available quantitative empirical results. © 2009 by the authors; licensee Molecular Diversity Preservation International.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Indoor Environment, Solar Radiation, Temperature, Other Exposure

Air Pollution: Ozone, Particulate Matter, Other Air Pollution

Air Pollution (other): Lead; NOx; SOx

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Wildfires

Food/Water Quality: Pathogen, Other Water Quality Issue

Water Quality (other): Eutrophication

Temperature: Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cancer, Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect

Cardiovascular Effect: Other Cardiovascular Effect

Cardiovascular Disease (other): Heart disease

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Cholera, Schistosomiasis, Other Diarrheal Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease (other): Gastroenteritis

Vectorborne Disease: General Vectorborne, Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Malaria

Respiratory Effect: Asthma, Bronchitis/Pneumonia, Lung Cancer, Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : Respiratory infections

Model/Methodology:

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Cost/Economic, Methodology

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified